

Catherine M. Shultz (Biography)
Acting Secretary for the Maryland Higher Education Commission

Catherine McCullough Shultz was appointed Acting Secretary of Higher Education by Governor Martin O'Malley on April 10, 2014. In this role, she serves as the chief executive of the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), the State's postsecondary education coordinating agency, and provides leadership for the State's \$110 million financial aid program, oversees the approval of new academic programs and institutions seeking to operate in Maryland, and advises the Governor and legislators on higher education policies and initiatives.

Catherine Shultz has devoted her entire career to public service. Before assuming her current role, Ms. Shultz served as MHEC's Assistant Attorney General and Principal Counsel for seven years. Prior to joining MHEC, Ms. Shultz was a member of the legal teams at the Department of Human Resources, State Archivist, and Clerks of the Court. Additionally, she served as the Interim Secretary of Human Resources at the beginning of Governor O'Malley's administration.

Shultz has also been recognized for her work as counsel throughout her career, including awards from Attorneys General over the last 30 years including the Exceptional Service Award in 1984 and in 2001, and Exceptional Leadership award in 2011. Her special assignments have included migrant education, criminal justice reform, and child welfare court reform. Also, she was a member of the team that investigated and civilly prosecuted individuals involved in the savings and loan scandal of the 1980s.

Catherine Shultz graduated cum laude from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) in 1971 and received her J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1980. Prior to attending law school, she was a guidance counselor and teacher.

Ms. Shultz currently resides in Annapolis, Maryland with her husband, and has two grown children.